

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 182

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to commend United States Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2015, an open letter to the leaders of Iran was signed by 47 United States senators; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the letter, authored by Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas, was to notify the leaders of Iran that any agreements made between the President of the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran relative to nuclear negotiations could be reversed upon the election of a new president; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's senators, Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, refused to sign the letter, which has been criticized as an intrusion upon the traditional authority of the executive branch to handle negotiations with foreign leaders; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Corker is well-informed on ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran. On February 27, 2015, he introduced the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, with bipartisan support from co-sponsors Robert Menendez, Lindsey Graham, and Tim Kaine; and

WHEREAS, the legislation "mandates the president to submit the text of any agreement to Congress and prohibits the administration from suspending congressional sanctions for 60 days. During that period, Congress would have the opportunity to hold hearings and approve, disapprove or take no action on the agreement"; and

WHEREAS, Senator Alexander has voiced support for Senator Corker's legislative efforts to ensure that Congress will be able to review any nuclear agreements made by the Obama administration to end economic sanctions with Iran in exchange for a promise not to build nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to commend those estimable Tennessee statesmen whose efforts to advance the cause of international relations transcend the political exigencies and sound bites of the day; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend United States Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker for their refusal to sign the open letter to the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran and applaud their efforts to ensure passage of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.